

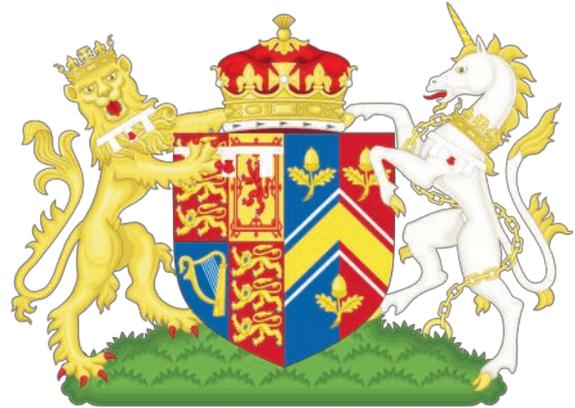


EACH: New Play Area & Royal Patron



Adventure Park & Pirate Ship

Example views of the new play area in Milton



Coat of Arms of the Duchess of Cambridge

East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH) has had a very busy few months. The charity launched their Child's Play Appeal in November to raise £80,000 to build a new outdoor play area at their hospice in Milton and announced that Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cambridge has become Royal Patron of the charity.

The new play area will replace the existing one, which is worn, outdated and unsuitable. The area will be used for play, one-to-one and family support activities, specialist play, music therapy and activity days for siblings.

The Duchess became Royal Patron in January and her patronages reflect Her Royal Highness's personal interests in the arts, the promotion of outdoor activity, and most relevant to EACH - offering support to people of all ages, especially young children.

Graham Butland, EACH Chief Executive, said: "EACH is honoured and extremely proud to have The Duchess of

Cambridge as Royal Patron.

"Having our work recognised in this way is not only a tribute to our staff and supporters, but a huge boost for the children, young people and families receiving our care and support.

"The Duchess's support will help us increase the awareness and understanding of the full range of services we offer children and families, and really celebrates the great work being done by all children's hospices across the UK."

EACH is also hosting a Valentine's disco at Milton Community Centre, on Saturday February 18th, 7:30pm-midnight. Tickets £14 to include Hog Roast. For tickets, and to find out more about EACH, call: 01223 205180, visit www.each.org, or come to our office at 42 High Street, Milton Mon- Fri 9am-5pm.

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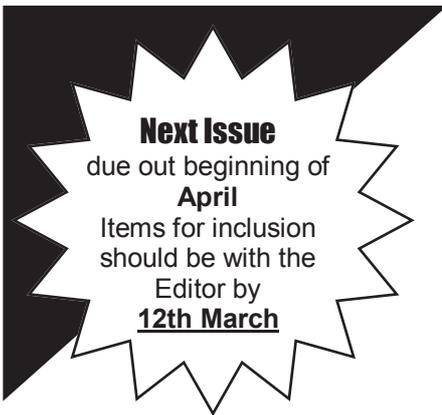
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New Year, New Sports? (p.12)

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Village View Dates

February Issue

Due out beginning of February
Closing date for articles - **12th January**

April Issue

Due out beginning of April
Closing date for articles - **12th March**

June Issue

Due out beginning of June
Closing date for articles - **12th May**

September Issue

Due out middle of September
Closing date for articles - **1st September**

November Issue

Due out middle of November
Closing date for articles - **1st November**

Send us your news

Please help us to keep the village informed by sending us your photographs and news. The best way to contact us is via email: vv@miltonvillage.org.uk. Otherwise, send your articles to Mary-Ann Johnson, 1 Knights Way, Milton CB24 6DE.

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B.J.LEONARD

A Milton Century

Milton resident Rose Easy celebrated her 100th birthday on Sunday 8th January. Parish Council Vice Chairman Ian May and Parish Clerk Jim Daniels presented Rose with a card and flowers to mark the occasion.

On her birthday, All Saints Church member Rose also met the youngest member of the congregation, six-day-old Gabriel Kim.



Phoenix Trust / Richmond House Open Day

As mentioned in the last issue of Village View, Phoenix Trust and the Richmond Fellowship will be holding a joint open day on the 21st April. We hope to show many aspects of both charities, together with a huge range of new products that are available to the public for the first time. More details will follow in the April issue of Village View.

Chairman Steps Down

At the Phoenix AGM on 7th December Barry Jefferson, chairman of the trustees, announced officially that he was standing down as chairman, with effect from that day. The other trustees had been informed some time ago of his decision.

Barry said at the meeting that he would be remaining a trustee for the time being but would be reducing his workload to one day per week. Having completed five years as Phoenix chairman and nearly 25 years of voluntary work for other charities and organisations he felt it was time to take things at a more sedate pace.

He said, "I took early retirement in June 1999 after 20 years as production manager at Cambridge University Press, never realising for the next 12 years I would be working as hard as I had done in the previous two decades—but that is the way of things and I would not have changed anything."

In conclusion he thanked his fellow trustees, employees and friends for their support and dedication over the years.

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WHAT'S ON: February—April**January**

Sat 28th Second anniversary Parkrun, Country Park (See below for details)

February

Sat 18th Valentine's disco in aid of EACH, Community Centre (See p.1 for details)

Sat 18th WI Bazaar, Church Hall (See p.10 for details)

Sat 25th Quiz night & supper, Church Hall (See below for details)

March

Weds 7th Tennis Club AGM (See below for details)

Sat 24th Run For It! Women's Day, All Saints' Church (See below for details)

April

Sun 8th Easter service with 'People's Passion' choir (See p.10 for details)

Sat 21st Phoenix Trust & Richmond House Open Day (See p.2 for details)



See www.milton.org.uk/diary.html for more event details. See www.miltoncountrypark.org for more park events.

QUIZ night and SUPPER

Saturday 25th February 2012
All Saints Milton Church Hall, 7pm
Tickets £10 each

to support the Association of Visitors to
Immigration Detainees

Email: Kathy English : kmenglish55@msn.com
Or ring Jillian Wilkinson: 01223 233 585

Milton Tennis Club AGM

7.30pm, Wednesday 7th March
Milton Community Centre, Coles Road
Everyone welcome

2nd Anniversary Parkrun

Parkrun is a weekly timed 5km run for all abilities at 9am each Saturday morning. Now with just over one hundreds runs at Milton Country Park, the second anniversary run is coming up on the 28th January. Please register online first, at:

www.parkrun.org.uk/cambridge

Milton Summer Fayre

This year's summer fayre will be on Saturday 14th July, from 1:30—6pm, then live music 'till 10pm.

Run For It!

All Saints Milton will be hosting a Women's Day for the East of England on 24th March. This year's theme is 'Run For It!'. Come and enjoy an opportunity to worship and pray, to be challenged, inspired, and to experience God's power.

MFC Presentation & Fundraising Evening

(Awards / Disco / Fully Licensed Bar / Buffet / Grand Raffle)

Saturday 12th May 2012

Milton Community Centre, 7pm-midnight

Tickets: £10 from any of the following:-

Andy Gray at Milton Community Centre – 862763

Chairman: Chris Drummond – 07717 873306

Secretary: Fraser Confrey – 07763 351490

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LOVE PILATES  **Pilates Classes 2012**

Milton Community Centre—Monday Morning
9.30 am & 10.30 am Mat / Ring Mixed Ability Class

Milton School—Tuesday Evening
6.25pm Ball & Mat Mixed Ability Class
8.15pm Mat Mixed Ability Class

Pilates helps you to strengthen your core and back muscles whilst improving your posture and flexibility. Leave the class feeling stretched and relaxed. Class suitable for all ages, both men and women.



Contact Liz on [07768] 155278 or email liz.doelman@lovepilates.co.uk
Visit www.lovepilates.co.uk

Visit: www.lovepilates.co.uk for full details and other classes held in the local area

Become a Community Champion

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS) is launching a pilot scheme in South Cambridgeshire to encourage residents to carry out safety checks on their homes. The scheme is innovative in that it will rely on local volunteers to liaise with the community on its behalf.

CFRS is now looking for people who live in the South Cambridgeshire area to volunteer to become 'Community Champions'. Community Champions will be trained to speak to local community groups about home fire safety and escape plans, and to refer those people who are unable to carry out a check of their own home to CFRS for additional support. Champions will also attend community events and take part in CFRS's public consultation activity.

Cambridgeshire Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) is running this pilot scheme on behalf of CFRS. If you would like to volunteer or have any queries, please contact the scheme co-ordinator Lynda Bubb at Cambridgeshire ACRE on 01353 865037 or mobile 07850 671114.

Community Car Scheme

You may be aware of the Beaches Car Scheme, which is a voluntary car scheme serving Waterbeach, Landbeach, Chittering and Horningsea. Your parish council is looking into the possibility of developing such a scheme for Milton. The options are to try and join the Beaches Scheme or develop a scheme of our own. The Beaches Scheme provides door-to-door transport to people who do not have the use of a car and are unable to use conventional public transport. Passengers pay for the driver on the day of travel (currently 30p a mile) to contribute to petrol cost, and the driver also gets a subsidy from Cambridgeshire County Council. Journeys are arranged through the scheme's journey coordinators. The lifts are provided by volunteers using their own cars.

In order to determine the feasibility of developing such a scheme for Milton, the parish council is asking for volunteer drivers and coordinators. If you are interested in becoming either a volunteer driver or coordinator, please contact the Clerk's Office on 861447 or by email: clerk@miltonvillage.org.uk

Relief Warden Sought for Community Care Scheme

A Relief Warden is needed for the Milton Community Care Scheme to cover for the warden during holidays, sickness, etc. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Clerk's Office on 861447, or email clerk@miltonvillage.org.uk

Frost in Milton Country Park



Photograph: Becky Thorne

Do you have a photo of Milton that you'd like to see in Village View? If so, email it to vv@miltonvillage.org.uk



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Milton School, Humphries Way, Milton
Tuesday Evening
5.15pm & 7.20pm Zumba for All

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IVC Academy Conversion

At the Full Governors Meeting of Impington Village College held on Tuesday 10 January, the final stages of conversion to Academy Status were discussed and debated, in particular as to whether the resolution passed by the Governing Body at its meeting on 19 July 2011 (see below) had been achieved:

We resolve to continue with the conversion to Academy status – subject to the approval by the Governing Body of the Articles of Association or other legal structure, intended to preserve the ethos and distinctive character of IVC.

Thanks to the excellent work of the Academy Working Party in ensuring the Articles of Association were amended, the Governing Body did feel confident that conversion would preserve the ethos and character of the College. The resolution to convert was therefore passed with 14 Governors voting in favour, 2 against and 2 abstentions.

The College (and education more generally) finds itself in a landscape that is changing rapidly. Many may be aware of David Cameron’s New Year’s message in which he stated that ‘Too often our schools aren’t up to scratch’. He did qualify this by adding that ‘Brilliant and committed people work in public services - but somehow the system stops them doing their job. So we’ll change it.’

Encouraging schools to become Academies is part of this systemic change. Many in education have concerns about this because it represents such a potential departure from the past. However, the Governing Body feels that becoming an Academy (with the associated autonomy) is the very best status for the College at this time to ensure we preserve its distinct and unique ethos and character as a village college in accordance with the vision of Henry Morris.

Impington Village College is now fully set to convert to Academy Status from 1 February 2012.

Robert Campbell, Principal / Martin Rigby, Chairman of Governors

Steam through Milton



Photograph: Richard Davies

The weeks before Christmas always see a good number of steam specials around the network, with excursions to Christmas markets and specials to carol services at Norwich Cathedral.

On December 8th, 70013 ‘Oliver Cromwell’ hauled an Ely – Oxford excursion, on which a number of Milton residents travelled, giving the opportunity for this unusual view of the train watchers at Fen Road, taken from the train.

On 12th December the newly built 60163 ‘Tornado’ passed Milton for only the second time, hauling ‘The Cathedrals Express’ from Chertsey to Ely.

2012 will see further visits from ‘Oliver Cromwell’ and ‘Tornado’, along with the return of 34067 ‘Tangmere’.

Nat Johnson



Photograph: Bill Darroch

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News from College of West Anglia



Students scoop award at East of England Smithfield Festival show

Students from the Cambridge campus took to the judging arena on a new inter-college challenge. This year's show took place at the East of England Showground in December 2011. Two teams of level 2 and 3 agriculture students entered the inter-college stockman's judging competition in which the students rose to the challenge scooping 2nd and 3rd place from a total of 8 teams. The competition involved the students judging prime beef cattle, lambs and breeding ewes and presenting their decisions and reasons to an official judging panel.

Linda Kirby, agriculture lecturer said, "The students worked very hard and showed a high level of commitment. Some of the students had very little prior knowledge of stock judging and used their experience gained on the college's farm to help them recognise and compare favourable qualities".

Alison Barber, Cambridge Campus Director: "Who said agriculture was finished? Once more we are beginning to see there are tremendous opportunities in the future for agriculture to produce food and energy, and these students are our future."



College Equine Extravaganza

The College of West Anglia recently hosted an equine extravaganza with Piggy French and Lucy Phillips to raise young people aspirations in the equine industry. The event took place at the Milton campus. The lecture demos were intended to inspire us all. Piggy French is a member of the UK world class performance squad. This year alone she has won at Blenheim, come 2nd at Badminton, won the Olympic Test Event at Greenwich Park and been a European eventing team bronze medallist in Luhmühlen. Piggy gave everyone a master class in advanced dressage movements and how to warm up for the show jumping phase.

Lucy Phillips, English vaulting champion, competed at the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Kentucky, finishing in 13th place in the individual female competition. In 2009 Lucy finished 8th overall at the FEI European Vaulting Championships in the Senior Individual Female class. Lucy has competed at both World and European Championship level. Vaulting is one of the best ways to introduce people to the sport of equestrianism, helping to develop balance, confidence and harmony with the horse for any riding discipline.

Alison Barber, Cambridge Campus Director said, "What a fantastic day! Nearly 200 people were captivated by Piggy... and we were so lucky to have a superb vaulting master class from Lucy Phillips the English vaulting champion – where else can you find so much happening with horses that is so interesting?"



Young farmers debut at regional calf show

College of West Anglia agriculture students Matthew Phipps (17) and Phillip Smith (19) from Newmarket and Huntingdon took part in the Midlands and East Anglia Hereford breeders' calf show 2011 at the Newark and Nottingham showground on 13th November. The calf show was held to allow young breeders to debut their livestock showcasing skills, with great emphasis on encouraging young handlers. Over 50 calves were shown, with a demonstration on the finer points of leading animals in the show ring, from professional breeders and showmen.

Matthew and Phillip, both level 3 agriculture students at the Cambridge campus, worked for weeks in advance preparing two pedigree Hereford heifers, Albany Gillian and Albany Graceful 28th, kindly loaned by a local farmer. Frances Cook, agriculture tutor, said "Both Matthew and Phillip made a fantastic effort, having never done this before. They put in to practice everything they had learnt and it was great to see all their hard work pay off quite literally as they both received a cash prize for participating. They also took part in the breed class, which judges the quality of the animal, receiving yet another cash prize. Their animals were turned out brilliantly; well done boys!"

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Milton Photographic Club Show & Tell



Members of Milton Photographic Club had the opportunity to show their pictures of the village and surrounding area at their December meeting. Around 30 photographs were shown, the subjects ranging from the Country Park and its wildlife through local landmarks, such as the Maize Maze and the industrial park, to village events, including the Village Fayre, both from this year and years gone by. There was even one purporting to show the Loch Ness Monster swimming along the Cam. As well as conventional digital shots, monochrome, panoramic and highly manipulated abstract images were on show. The photographs will be kept on file as part of the club's commitment to preserving an up to date archive of images of the village.



In addition to show and tell evenings such as this, the club also organises practical photographic evenings and talks by members and external speakers and exhibits each year at the Village Fayre. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month in the church hall at 7:45p.m. New members of all levels of interest and experience in photography are always welcome. We have a number of members who are "new" to photography, who find the club an ideal way of improving their photographic skills.



Upcoming meetings are:

February 15 – Show and tell (open topic)

March 21 – Practical session (close up photography)

You can find further details of our club at our website www.miltonphotographicclub.org.uk

Photo credits (clockwise from bottom left): *Footprint* by Stephen Bennett; *War memorial* by Duncan Winterborn; *Repair Works* and *All Saints' Panorama* by Simon Durrant; *Village Fayre* by Stephen Bennett; *Gulls on Ice* and *By The Towpath* by Peter Higdon; *Maize Maze* by Kiriakos Tseneklidis

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From the Desk of the Parish Council Chairman January 2012

First of all, on behalf of the parish council, I would like to wish everyone in the village a healthy and happy New Year. I trust you have all enjoyed a good holiday season. I would like to give special thanks to Milton resident Dave Collins and Parish Councillor Rob Farrington for putting up our Christmas lights this year and adding to the festive mood in the village.

I am happy to report that your parish council has been active during the past two months listening to your requests and concerns. In light of the large amount of feedback we received from residents concerning the loss, during the recent Tesco refurbishment, of the much-used pedestrian path, your parish council contacted the store manager. Parish and District Councillor Hazel Smith and I had an onsite visit to put forward the village's position and the path has now been re-instated.

I am also pleased to report that we have been able to support all the youth groups in the village who submitted bids for the recent donation made by a resident from Butt Lane. Three groups – the Milton Scouts, the Milton Badminton Club and Milton Action for Youth – received a share of the donation to help them continue their work with young people in the village. Thanks again to the kind resident who chose to make a difference in these hard economic times and demonstrated the true spirit of this festive season with her kind donation.

Finally, I would like to call your attention to three notices in this issue of the Village View.

1. The parish council is looking for a Relief Warden for the Milton Community Care Scheme to cover for the warden during holidays, sickness, etc. As you may be aware, Milton has one of the finest community care schemes in the area which provides a vital service to many of our older residents. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk's Office on 861447, or email clerk@miltonvillage.org.uk.

2. Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is looking for volunteers for their new pilot scheme.

3. The parish council is looking into the feasibility of developing a community car scheme for Milton similar to the Beaches Car Scheme in Waterbeach. We would like to see how much interest there would be for potential volunteer drivers and co-ordinators from Milton. Please consult the article for more information.

*Richard Summerfield
Chairman Milton Parish Council*

Below please find below an updated list of your councillor contact details (for email addresses, please visit www.miltonvillage.org.uk and click on 'Meet Your Parish Councillors').

Parish Councillors	Michael Perkins	07769 665836
Richard Summerfield <i>Chairman</i>	860715	Ian Tyes
Ian May <i>Vice Chairman</i>	521294	Mandy Winnington
Alex Campbell	861511	512255
David Chamberlin	862184	Parish & District Councillors
Jane Coston	563539	Mark Hersom
Terrie Drummond	863615	Hazel Smith
Mark Ellwood	860770	07852 997771
Rob Farrington	860160	860752
Jim Mowatt	861024	County Councillor
		Michael Williamson
		860899



Worship Service Time Details:

Holy Communion
Sundays 8-8.45am
Traditional Communion service

Morning Worship with children's groups for 0 – teens
Sundays 10.30-11.45am followed by refreshments
Friendly service for all ages with a mix of modern worship songs & traditional hymns

Evening Celebration
Sundays 7-8.30pm
Refreshments from 6.30pm & afterwards
Informal service with modern worship band and teaching relevant to daily life

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Tel. 441007 or email office@allsaintsmilton.org.uk

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6pm Evening Worship

Midweek Home groups
- Tues 7.30pm, Landbeach
- Thurs 10.30am, 143 Waterbeach Rd.

All are welcome to our small but friendly fellowship. Further details from Maureen Clark, tel 01954 250118

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Contact : Alex Campbell
Tel. 01223 862184 or 07746 122749
Email alex@alexercise.co.uk
www.alexercise.co.uk

Safe Cycling & New Non-Emergency Police Number

2012 is well and truly with us now and I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year. Daylight hours are gradually increasing now; however, cyclists are more vulnerable than other road users. I have come across numerous cyclists without lights and wearing dark clothing, which makes it harder for them to be seen. We all know cycling is a good way of achieving an active lifestyle, and more and more of us are using our bikes to get to and from work. We want you to stay safe and, by taking the precautions below, you will help yourself and other road users by being visible. I would like to encourage parents to check that their children are also aware of the following guidelines.

It is important to **BE SEEN AT ALL TIMES**. Cars cannot see you as easily as you see them, so make yourself more visible with the aid of:

- ⇒ A white front reflector and wheel reflectors
- ⇒ Reflective and fluorescent clothing during the day and night
- ⇒ REMEMBER, when cycling at night it is a legal requirement to have a fitted front white light and a red rear light as well as red reflectors. You can be issued a £30 FPN (Fixed Penalty Notice) if you do not have working lights on your cycle.
- ⇒ Always wear your helmet - helmets reduce the risk of an injury but do not eliminate it. You should make sure your helmet is CE Standard, fitted to your head snugly and replaced every 3 years or after an accident.

CHECK YOUR BIKE - it is good practice to check your bike every time you are about to cycle: check that your lights are working and reflectors are clean, the brakes are working and your tyres have air. You should always have your bike serviced on a regular basis by a professional.

Cycling is fun but you need to **pay attention to the road** at all times. Always:

- ⇒ Check behind you before starting to cycle
- ⇒ Abide by the rules of the road and never pull out from behind parked vehicles
- ⇒ Turn off personal stereo systems and mobile phones while cycling

Where possible, use cycle lanes, but take care and remember that these are often shared with pedestrians. If you do cycle on the road, try to use side streets and avoid very busy roads. Take extra care at junctions and roundabouts and use clear hand signals. Cycle in single file on busy or narrow roads.

We want you to enjoy cycling, so adopt the advice above and stay safe.

I also wanted to let you know that you can now contact Cambridgeshire Constabulary on **101 for all non-emergency calls**. The 0345 456 456 4 number will remain in use alongside 101 for several months to allow people time to get used to the new number. The change comes part of a national programme to make 101 the single non-emergency number in England and Wales, giving residents an easy-to-remember number to contact local police wherever they are.

The call system is designed to recognise where you are calling from and connect you with the local police service. If you did not want to speak to your local force, or the force area you are in, you will be given the option to be connected to different one.

The number change does not affect the way that calls are handled and we will continue to take non-emergency calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Please continue to call 999 when an immediate response is needed because a crime is happening, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, or someone is in danger.

If you wish to contact myself or PC Phil Shulver you can do so by calling 101 and asking for either myself or PC Shulver 144.

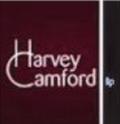


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LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Milton W.I.

On 18 February the ladies of Milton W.I. invite **everyone** from 'One to a hundred' along to the Church Hall where they will be holding a Bazaar and Soup kitchen. There will be lots of activities including a Tombola, a drawing competition for children, a bring and buy stall plus home made soup, tea and coffee. This is a chance to meet up with old friends for a coffee and a chat and possibly make new ones. We look forward to seeing you on the day.

We thoroughly enjoyed having Barbara Redman back again teaching us how to make attractive Christmas gift boxes. There was lots of giggling as we tried to make boxes which looked as beautiful as the ones that Barbara makes. A lot more practise is required, but we all went home with a smile on our faces.

We had lots of laughs again at our December meeting. Paula Dolan is Cambridgeshire's answer to Pam Ayres. Paula has the ability to write amusing and witty poetry about the most insignificant of life's occurrences. Paula also had the difficult task of judging the best homemade Christmas hat. There were some really wonderful creations; we do have a lot of talent. The evening was rounded off with lots of homemade food and a lovely Christmas cake. Everyone went home feeling they had really started celebrating Christmas.

In February we will be given an insight into the world of a top chef, and at our March meeting we shall have 'Fun with Science'. We shall also keep on being 'Ladies who lunch', walk and visit interesting places. There are also the outings and events organised by the County Federation, some of which are open to non-members. Any ladies who would like to know more about us, please come along to any of our meetings as a visitor.

You can also visit our website: thewimilton.blogspot.com. On the website you will be able to see lots of pictures of our members enjoying themselves, and link through to the County and National websites to find out more about the W.I., which happens to be the largest ladies organisation in the UK, with 215,000 Members.

We meet at the Church Hall on the third Tuesday in the month at 7.30p.m.(except the months of July and December when it is the second Tuesday). All members and visitors are made very welcome

Please contact our President Gill Offley on 01223 293231 or our Secretary Bridget Crow on 01223 441755.

Jan Chessum

School Christmas Market

On Thursday 1st December we held our Christmas Market. Children in Key Stage 2 made items to sell at the market and we also sold everything that was generously donated.



Many thanks to all that were involved and who supported this year's market.

Sing it with Passion

The BBC has commissioned a brand new choral work which will be sung by choirs across the country at Easter. The nationwide "People's Passion" event will unite singers in a moment of national harmony to perform a stunning new work with music composed by Sasha Johnson Manning and lyrics by the poet Michael Symmons Roberts.

The new work will form part of the Easter Morning service at All Saints and if you would like to be part of it please contact Mary-Ann or Nat Johnson (nat@cantab.net). Everyone is welcome to sing, whether you've sung in choirs for years or never before.

Nat Johnson

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Milton Wildlife Watch

As it's a New Year, I thought it might be good to have a review of some of my wider highlights of the last year, as it may well be worth looking out for them again in case they're around at the same time this year, close to and a bit further from Milton.

2011 started with a real highlight in mid-January when cycling to work along the riverbank. I couldn't believe it when I spotted some birds on the flooded fields just beyond the A14 on Chesterton Fen. They were white, and too large and the wrong shape to be seagulls. As it was raining and not really quite light, I had to stop and take a closer look. It's a good thing I always carry round my small pair of binoculars. Four little egrets, presumably stopping off between one destination and another, as I'd certainly not expect this to be an area where they'd stay for long. Later in the winter, I also saw little egrets on Milton Fen, on the southerly field below the railway. The fields on Chesterton Fen, when flooded in the winter, also seem to attract travelling lapwings. Sometimes, when spring is near, they will indulge in some display flight. However, my oddest observation down there came last March, when I saw an oystercatcher!

There were definitely three little grebes in the Country Park before Christmas, and I'm inclined to think I've seen several on the river in the last few weeks, possibly the ones from the Country Park trying new feeding areas, so perhaps they migrate from somewhere colder - possibly still in the UK - and find the Country Park and the river a more attractive place to overwinter.

During the autumn and this week, we've frequently been able to hear what is probably a tawny owl calling from the Country Park in both the evenings and early mornings. I was also lucky enough to once see a barn owl swooping over one of the fields before the level crossing on the Fen Road, and an owl crossed my path the other evening on the Fen Road about two hours after it got dark. We also saw an owl over the hedgerow to the east of the A10 when we were coming back from the carols on Waterbeach Green on Christmas Eve. So please don't randomly put out rat poison, or you risk accidentally killing one of these rare and beautiful creatures, as they will also be poisoned if they eat poisoned prey.

Heather Coleman

School Allotment Update

The allotment has recently begun another transformation. This November we have been busy planting trees. We have planted trees to create a story circle that the whole school will be able to use later on in the year.

We have also been busy extending our composter; we have built a third section so that we can continue to 'make' our own compost for use on the allotment.

Additionally we have been busy planting our seeds for us to be able to harvest later on in the year. We needed to clear out the weeds and the remaining plants from last year first of all though. We have planted a wide range of seeds and have our fingers crossed for a bumper crop in 2012!

Thanks to all who have helped on the allotment to continue to help it to grow!



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Milton Football Club



New Players

The Club seeks New Players for our Saturday & Sunday Men's Teams and also our Sunday Ladies Team.

For more information contact Club Secretary Fraser Confrey 07763 351490 or email info@miltonfc.org.uk

Calling All Former Members!

The club is looking to set up a database of its former players and officers with a view to then sending out regular updates/news etc.

It is hoped that a reunion event can be arranged later in the year. If interested, please email the club at info@miltonfc.org.uk

Older readers may enjoy visiting the history section on our website: www.miltonfc.org.uk

Scrabble

The charity Scrabble evening was very successful, with 16 players. It was also the final of 2011, when the Winner of the Year was announced.

The winner was Michael Spooner, with an average score of 388 points. The runner-up was Michael English, with an average of 374. Third runner-up was Pat Froment, with average score of 328 points.

The charity winner was Heather Badcock of Shelford, with a score of 785 for two games. Her chosen charity was EACH children's hospice, and she was able to send off £100.

EM GEE DEE

(I am not saying where I came!)

Tai Chi

The Yang Style Tai Chi group in Milton is starting a new beginners class at the end of January.

Tai Chi is a gentle exercise that is suitable for all ages and is beneficial to health. Classes are on Tuesdays 7:40 - 9:10pm in the Community Centre Annexe. For further information, call Harmony (01223 845069) or Roxane (01223 440930).



Milton Tennis Club—New Season

Our tennis season officially starts on 1st April 2012 with the first club night on Wednesday 4th April. Membership application forms and 2012 information will be available on our webpage at the end of March.

Sue Griffin, Secretary
www.miltontennisclub.co.uk



Xmas Whist Drive

There were 7½ tables in play, which really made all the effort put into it worthwhile. Everyone received a prize or two. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way.

This is organised for the MCC, and is now in its 32nd year. Is there anyone who feels like taking it on when the present organisers feel they have got to give up? This has been quite a good record.

Mary Daniels

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